

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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APPROVED BY EA:AWHUMMEL,,JR.
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P R 192247Z OCT 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208013

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, TW, CH
SUBJECT: ROC MINISTER CHEN CALLS ON ACTING ASSISTANT
SECRETARY

REFS: (A) STATE 206271 (B) STATE 199097

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1. ROC MINISTER T. C. CHEN CALLED OCTOBER 19 AT HIS REQUEST ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HUMMEL. CHEN OPENED THE CONVERSATION BY EXPRESSING HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES TO AMBASSADOR SHEN (REF A) AND HUMMEL'S OWN EARLIER ASSURANCES TO CHEN (REF B). CHEN THEN ASKED ABOUT THE JAPANESE (FUJII) REPORT QUOTING PRC DEPUTY PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING AS SAYING THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WOULD BE "FUTILE" UNLESS HE WAS PREPARED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HUMMEL REPLIED THAT WE COULD NOT CONFIRM THIS REPORT AND THAT HE REGARDED IT AS SIMPLY JAPANESE SPECULATION.

2- CHEN NOTED THAT SPECULATION ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF THE SECRETARY'S PEKING VISIT CONTINUES IN THE AMERICAN PRESS
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AND ASKED WHETHER THE REPORT THAT 19 REPORTERS WOULD

ACCOMPANY THE SECRETARY DID NOT MEAN THAT SOMETHING
DRAMATIC WAS IN THE OFFING. HUMMEL REPLIED THAT THE REASON

SEVERAL REPORTERS WERE GOING IS BECAUSE DR. KISSINGER IS
NOW SECRETARY OF STATE AND IT IS CUSTOMARY FOR REPORTERS
TO ACCOMPANY SECRETARIES OF STATE WHEN THEY TRAVEL
ABROAD. HE RECALLED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD STATED WE
WOULD HAVE PERIODIC CONTACT WITH THE PRC AND THAT, IN
FACT, THESE CONTACTS HAD TAKEN PLACE APPROXIMATELY EVERY
SIX MONTHS SINCE THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO PEKING. DR.
KISSINGER'S LAST VISIT TO PEKING, HUMMEL CONTINUED, WAS IN
FEBRUARY, 1973, AND THE IMPENDING VISIT WAS SCHEDULED
BEFORE DR. KISSINGER WAS NAMED TO BE SECRETARY OF STATE.

3. CHEN ASKED IF HUMMEL HIMSELF WERE GOING TO PEKING, TO
WHICH THE LATTER REPLIED THAT THE LIST OF THOSE ACCOMPANY-
ING THE SECRETARY HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT THAT HE WOULD
VERY MUCH LIKE TO GO. HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD DEFINITELY
BE GOING TO THE CHIEFS OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN TOKYO
SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 24-25. IN RESPONSE TO CHEN'S
QUESTION WHETHER THE PEKING VISIT WAS STILL ON AS SCHED-
ULED, HUMMEL SAID YES, THERE HAS BEEN NO POSTPONEMENT.

4. CHEN NOTED THAT A COLUMNIST NAMED DRUMMOND HAD
RECENTLY SPECULATED THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE SECRE-
TARY'S PEKING VISIT WOULD BE TO DISCUSS THE PRC-USSR
BORDER AREA PROBLEMS. TO THIS HUMMEL REPLIED THAT HE HAD
NOT SEEN THE ARTICLE BUT THAT DRUMMOND COULD NOT POSSIBLY
KNOW WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN PEKING. HUMMEL ADDED THAT
THE ASSURANCES GIVEN THE ROC BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND
HIMSELF STILL STOOD, AND THAT HE COULD NOT GO BEYOND THAT.

5. SUMMING UP, CHEN ASKED IF HE COULD ASSUME THAT THE

PEKING VISIT WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PERIODIC CON*ACTS
MENTIONED BY THE *PRESIDENT, THAT NOTHING HAS HAPPENED TO
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CHANGE THE ASSURANCES GIVEN TO US THAT THERE WILL BE NO
RECOGNITION OF THE PRC, AND THAT "NOTHING SPECTACULAR"
IS TO BE EXPECTED? HUMMEL REPLIED THAT CHEN'S ASSUMPTIONS
WERE ABSOLUTELY ACCURATE.

KISSINGER

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